STAL SCANNED 31
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ADDRESS

by

MR G. D. NAIDU

at a lunch party given in honour of

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR ARTHUR HOPE G. C. I. E., M. C.,

Governor of Madras,

at

"Gopal Bagh" Avanashi Road,
COIMBATORE

on

9-1-1944

and

His Excellency's tribute

to

Mr G. D. Naidu's philanthropy

Mr G. D. Naidu's Philanthropy

Governor's Tribute

MR G. D. NAIDU gave a lunch party in honour of His Excellency the Governor of Madras at his residence "Gopal Bagh" on Sunday, January 9, 1944.

Welcoming His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Mr G. D. Naidu said:

May it please Your Excellency,

I thank you very much for having kindly accepted my invitation for lunch this afternoon. I am also thankful for the presence of MISS HOPE along with Your Excellency. I regard this occasion as a very important and memorable one, especially in relation to my present business career to which I am going to give a new turn from now onwards.

I entered this business about 25 years ago with small beginnings. In course of time, it developed by leaps and bounds to dimensions beyond my expectations. It has earned the reputation of being the most efficiently conducted bus service in India, for instance the number of accidents per mile covered, when we consider the number of passengers

carried, being the lowest in the world. But unfortunately, owing to the spread of the world war and the consequent shortage of materials, and also owing to want of co-operation on the part of subordinate officials, deterioration crept into the service which, in its turn, has led me to decide on a change-over in the management, and accordingly I have decided to hand over all the transport concerns to other hands. I crave the indulgence of Your Excellency in this connection to say some of the details, which I desire to mention.

Your Excellency will be pleased to remember that late in 1942, when Your Excellency opened the Central Bus Stand, I promised to give to the War Fund the profits accruing from this stand. I expected in the ordinary course a good accumulation of profit, but on account of the indiscriminate reduction of buses this expectation was not realised. Notwithstanding this, to implement my promise, I made an advance payment of Rs. 31,000/- towards Your Excellency's War fund. In the meanwhile I began to feel uneasy about the ruthless application of the present rules and regulations by the authorities. I, therefore, came to the conclusion, that I could spend my time more usefully and profitably towards war purposes, if I employed myself in other directions. But before I actually effected this change, I thought it only fair to come to some definite arrangement by which I could fulfil my promise to Your Excellency. With that purpose in view, I have, with Your Excellency's approval, agreed to give the sum of Rs. 70,000/- which sum I am now paying by a cheque in place of future instalments. The total

amount paid for the year thus comes to RUPEES ONE LAKH AND ONE THOUSAND. I request Your Excellency to accept this, my humble constribution.

INVESTMENT IN DEFENCE BONDS

I am also taking this auspicious opportunity to make some contribution towards Defence Bonds. Until yesterday I was not able to decide how much could be so invested. I know some people, who have been benefitted to an unexpected degree by the boom of the war and who are keeping their surplus cash in their private safes, or in banks or spending it by making fantastic purchases of lands, buildings, cars and drinks and other wasteful luxuries, thus inducing and encouraging black-markets with the consequent inflation of prices. I have been advising and persuading them to invest this money in Defence Bonds, as the prices now prevailing are not at all standard prices, and that these are bound to fall with the return of normal conditions. Though inwardly they agree with this view, some of them are not inclined to accept my advice. Further, they try to dissuade me from investing in Defence Bonds by drawing my attention to the local political atmosphere – perhaps a few of them are fifth columnists. In spite of all these things, I have decided to invest in Defence Bonds even more than I can spare in order to set an example to these people and to infuse confidence in the wavering group. Thus I am now investing RUPEES TEN LAKHS in Defence Bonds, and accordingly I am handing over a cheque for this amount.

DONATIONS

I desire to celebrate Your Excellency's first visit to this district in the New Year of Victory (1944) as my last function, while I am in these concerns by announcing the following donations out of the above-mentioned amount invested in Defence Bonds:

1. Bonds worth Rs. 5,70,000/- to be handed over to U. M. S. Ltd., CBE for the following purposes:

(*a*) Rs. 1,50,000/- to be utilised for their labourers' health, education etc., or for any other work for the uplift of their labourers.

(*b*) Rs. 1,00,000/- to be utilised for the welfare of labour in general in the Presidency.

(*c*) Rs. 50,000/- to be utilised for the welfare of the Depressed Class labour.

(*d*) Rs. 20,000/- to be given as bonus for those members of the staff, who are over fifteen years in service, to be divided equally among them or according to the merit of each individual.

(*e*) Rs. 50,000/- to be utilised for starting a journal for the uplift of the downtrodden people.

(*f*) Rs. 2,00,000/- to be utilised by the Company for developing the radio and automobile industry as a business capital expenditure of the Company or to be invested to open a Radio Institute or Automobile Institute, or both, according to the discretion of the Company.

The interest accruing from these investments, or the entire amount can be utilised by the Company for the above mentioned purposes. In case the Company is dissolved or changed to other hands, these amounts can be spent before such change occurs for the above mentioned purposes in a lump sum, or for a maternity hospital for the benefit of the labourers in general or for an industrial educational institute for labourers, according to the Company's discretion.

2. Bonds worth Rs. 50,000/– to be given to the Inspector General of Police, the interest on which is to be utilised for the education of the children of deserving police constables, subject to the condition that it applies to children of police constables of this district and children of police constables of other districts, who have served in this district for not less than three years, and that it applies only to high school education not exceeding three years: this amount to be equally distributed for three to ten children selected by the Deputy Inspector General of Police of this range, with the approval of the I. G. of Police.

3. Bonds worth Rs. 25,000/– to be given to the Trustees of the Pachaiappa's College, to be used for a Radio Laboratory.

4. Bonds worth Rs. 10,000/– to be given to the Andhra University for annual scholarships for Radio Research work.

5. Bonds worth Rs. 25,000/- to be given to the Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, the interest of which to be given for scholarship for brilliant boys of fourth year course in Automobile Engineering for not less than three students, who come first in servicing of chassis alignment, electrical equipment, carburettors and engine fitting.

In addition to the above, between 20 to 30 serviceable buses, now on the road, which will be replaced soon by the newly got lease-lend vehicles, will be given to Madras Regiment, free of cost for training purposes before I retire and hand over charge.

It may not be out of place to mention here that MR L. R. G. NAIDU who is sitting at this table, was with me when I started this business. He is also owning a big business equal to this one. Now he is going to take charge of this business too and I have got the confidence and hope, that he will conduct the business with the main aim of serving the public and with the foremost object of co-operating with war efforts. After this I am sure, I will have more time at my disposal to spend for war efforts. I need not say, that it is the bounden duty of every living individual in this land to strive for this purpose, whatever his views on political, social, or other matters may be.

I thank Your Excellency once again for the patient hearing given to me. Wishing Your Excellency a long and prosperous life.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY

Mr Naidu, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like first of all to say how very delighted my daughter and myself are to be here at this function today. I have said before, and I repeat it now, and will repeat it again, that I always enjoy a visit to Coimbatore. I think that Mr Naidu very much represents Coimbatore in every way. As he has just said, he started in a small way, and has now grown into a very big man. Coimbatore, no doubt, started in a small way, and has certainly become a very big city; and, although a short time ago I have been told by one person at this function, that until he came down to the South, he never heard of Coimbatore. I am quite certain that before many years are passed, Coimbatore will be known throughout the world in the same way as Bombay or Madras or Delhi. It is people like Mr Naidu, who has got the town on the map, and I do most sincerely congratulate him on the wonderful things he has done during the course of a not very long life. I want to thank him very much indeed for these magnificent donations, both to the investment in war loans, and the philanthropic and charitable gifts, which he has given.

In England we have a gentleman rather similar to Mr Naidu called LORD NUFFIELD, who has given an enormous amount of money, always for good objects out of the profits made in his concern; and although Mr Naidu may not be thinking of Lord Nuffield, he is doing indeed the same thing. I do appreciate it enormously; it is a wonderful example,

quite apart from the monetary value of the gift, and I am sure that others in all parts of India can take that example to heart and do what they can, not only for the War Fund, but also for the needs of the poor and the suffering. I appreciate his gifts enormously. They will be used as Mr Naidu wishes. I am perfectly certain that he is giving an example, which will be followed by many, not only in the Presidency, but throughout the country.

Mr Naidu said that 1944 will be the year of victory. I profoundly hope so too. We have had very difficult times in the past and our difficulties are by no means over. Although Italy is now out of the war, we have still to defeat Germany and Japan. And we have got to make absolutely certain that victory will be complete. We have got to go right on to the very end, with a 100% victory and with the Armistice declared in Berlin. The same thing applies to Japan as well.

Unless we finish this war completely and absolutely with a 100% victory, we will have a repetition of the war again in 25 or 50 years time. Germans, like the Japanese, are out for world domination or for splitting the world up among themselves, and that has got to come to an end. That will be done only by the whole-hearted co-operation of everybody in the United Nations, and I am perfectly convinced that, come what may, everybody in this country realises, as Mr Naidu, whatever the political complexion may be, there will be no future for India or for the world unless the military spirit of Japan and Germany is crushed once for all.

In conclusion I would once again thank Mr Naidu enormously for what he has said, what he has done and what he has given–an example to everybody not only in India but throught the United Nations. It is this spirit which Mr Naidu has shown and which is going to win this war for us. I trust very much that before I leave the Madras Presidency the European war at any rate will be over and I hope the same of the Japanese war as well and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you here in Coimbatore, Mr Naidu and everybody else, for all that you have done in the past four years, and I am fully confident and certain, that you will go on to the bitter end until the enemy is crushed finally and for all time.

MISS G. D. SAROJINI, daughter of Mr G. D. Naidu, proposing a hearty vote of thanks on behalf of her father said :–

"I am indeed grateful to Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, for attending this lunch and making it a success.

"It is specially gratifying that Miss Hope should be amongst us this afternoon as it is, her first visit to this place. I wish Miss Hope may have many such occasions, and also trust we will have her enjoyable company more often in the future.

"I am very much thankful also to MR BURTON and MISS LECHLER for the unreserved help they have rendered to carry out the various arrangements to make the function a success.

"I once more propose a hearty vote of thanks to Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen."